

**In the Claims**

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please cancel claims 9-11, 91, 115, 139-141, 143, 145-147, 149, 151-153, 155, 157-159, and 161 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend pending claims 1-3, 23, 45, and 68 as noted below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a subject to reduce the likelihood of streptococcal infection comprising  
administering orally to a subject in need of such treatment hyaluronic acid ~~an agent that binds to a hyaluronic acid-binding region of a CD44 protein~~ in an amount effective to interfere with adhesion of streptococcal bacteria to CD44 protein in the subject and inhibit streptococcal colonization of the pharynx, wherein either one or both of the following conditions applies: the treatment is free of Echinacea or the hyaluronic acid ~~agent~~ is administered in a dose greater than 0.2 mg.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount of the hyaluronic acid ~~agent~~ administered to the subject in need of such treatment statistically reduces the likelihood of infection.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid ~~agent~~ is administered to a subject suspected of exposure to Group A streptococcus or Group C streptococcus.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the subject is known to have been exposed to streptococcal bacteria.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the subject is likely to be exposed to streptococcal bacteria.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a human.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is in need of such treatment to reduce the likelihood of streptococcal pharyngitis.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the CD44 protein in the subject in need of such treatment is located on the pharynx.
- 9-11. (Cancelled)
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dose is a single oral administration of hyaluronic acid.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dose is multiple oral administrations of hyaluronic acid.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a dose of at least 0.2 mg is administered in under 2 hours.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a dose of at least 0.2 mg is administered in under 1 hour.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a dose of at least 0.2 mg is administered in under 30 minutes.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a dose of at least 0.2 mg is administered in under 15 minutes.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the dose is at least 0.25mg, 0.30mg, 0.40mg, 0.50mg, 0.60mg, 0.70mg, 0.80mg, 0.90mg, 1.0mg, 1.25mg, 1.5mg, 1.75mg,

2.0mg, 2.25mg, 2.5mg, 2.75mg, 3.0mg, 4.0mg, 5.0mg, 6.0mg, 7.0mg, 8.0mg, 9.0mg, or 10.0mg hyaluronic acid.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the dose is administered in under 1.5 hours, 1.0 hours, 45 minutes, 30 minutes, 15 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes, 4 minutes, 3 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minutes, 30 seconds, 15 seconds, 10 seconds, 5 seconds, or 1 second.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the treatment is free of Echinacea.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the treatment is free of Echinacea.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a subject to reduce the likelihood of streptococcal infection comprising

administering orally to a subject in need of such treatment hyaluronic acid ~~an agent that binds to a hyaluronic acid-binding region of a CD44 protein~~ in an amount effective to displace streptococcal bacteria bound to CD44 protein in the subject and inhibit streptococcal colonization of the pharynx, wherein either one or both of the following conditions applies: the treatment is free of Echinacea or the hyaluronic acid ~~agent~~ is administered in a dose greater than 0.2 mg.

24-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a subject to reduce the likelihood of streptococcal or staphylococcal infection comprising

administering orally to a subject in need of such treatment hyaluronic acid ~~an agent that binds to a hyaluronic acid-binding region of a CD44 protein of a mucosal membrane~~ in an amount effective to interfere with adhesion of streptococcal or staphylococcal bacteria to the mucosal membrane in the subject, wherein either one or both of the following conditions applies:

the treatment is free of Echinacea or the hyaluronic acid ~~agent~~ is administered in a dose greater than 0.2 mg.

46-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a subject to reduce the likelihood of streptococcal or staphylococcal infection comprising

administering orally to a subject in need of such treatment hyaluronic acid ~~an agent that binds to a hyaluronic acid-binding region of a CD44 protein of a mucosal membrane~~ in an amount effective to displace streptococcal or staphylococcal bacteria bound to the mucosal membrane in the subject, wherein either one or both of the following conditions applies: the treatment is free of Echinacea or the hyaluronic acid ~~agent~~ is administered in a dose greater than 0.2 mg.

69-162. (Cancelled)